Appendix A.28

Social Area Analysis Lesson
Prairie Vista High School

Advanced Geography
Urban Patterns
Social Area Analysis

- Students will engage in social area analysis using census tract and block group data.
- Median housing value (low, medium, high) will serve as a base for comparison.
- Students will also examine high school attendance areas and make connections between demographic and socioeconomic data with respect to average SAT and ACT scores.

Instructions for ArcView:

1.	Open up the hard drive
2.	Click on ESRI folder
3.	AV_GIS3.0a
4.	ArcView
5.	Click on NEW
6.	Click on Add Theme Icon (second from left top of tool bar)
7.	AV_GIS3.0 highlighter bar
8.	Scroll down to Macintosh HD
9.	Scroll down to SAVE FOLDER (open)
10.	Click on highsch.shp
11.	Click on add
12.	Click on theme box
13.	Double click for legend editor option
14.	Click on highlighter bar and scroll to graduated color
15.	Click on classification field highlighter bar and scroll down to desired variable!
16.	Click on APPLY
17.	Answer questions!!

County High School Attendance Area Questions:

1.	List the high school attendance areas that have the highest median housing value.

2.	Describe in detail the geographic distribution for the high school attendance areas listed above.

3.	List the high school attendance areas that have the lowest median housing values.

4.	Describe in detail the geographic distribution for the high school attendance areas listed above for question #3.

5.   List the high school attendance areas that fall into the three medium categories.

6.   Describe in detail the geographic distribution for the attendance areas listed above for question #5.

7.   Discuss the connections between median housing values and renter occupancy. Make sure to examine the exceptions!

8.   Discuss in detail the connections between median housing values, number of divorced, units 10-49, and average ACT and SAT scores.

9.   Choose two other variables and explain why they might help influence the distribution of average SAT and ACT scores for high schools in the County.

Social Area Analysis Questions:

1.   Use the map of median housing value as a base of comparison.

2.   Choose six socioeconomic variables to help you analyze and interpret the data for six (2 low income, 2 medium income, 2 high income) neighborhoods in the County.

3.   Using street names, define the boundaries for each neighborhood.

4.   Each neighborhood should consist of 12-20 block groups or 7-12 census tracts.

5.   Once you have defined the boundaries for each area and identified the class (low, medium, high), write at least a half page response describing in detail what the neighborhood is like. Make sure that you refer to specific data!!!

6.   Using the concentric, sector, and multi-nuclei models as a guide, write a one-page analysis of the County from a socioeconomic point of view. Make sure that you refer to data and do not forget to mention geographic concepts!!!!